GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:322
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
COARSE GRAINS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether coarse grains are being grown on around 28 million hectares of land out of total cultivable land;

(b) if not, the estimated area of such land;

(c) whether farmers growing coarse grains are getting only 57% return of total production costs; and

(d) if not, the assessment made by the Government in this regard and percentage of small and marginal farmers engaged in said cultivation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)& (b) : The area under coarse grains against total cultivable land during the last three years is as under:

(in million hectares)

Year	Area under coarse grains	Total cultivable land
2003-04	30.80	182.95
2004-05	29.03	182.81
2005-06	29.04	182.58

(c) & (d): Farmers growing coarse grains are getting assured return in the form of Minimum Support Price (MSP) as recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and as announced by the Government. Data on small and marginal farmers engaged in cultivation of coarse grains are not maintained. The cost of production (COP) and the MSP of the coarse grains viz. jowar, bajra and maize for the year 2007-08 is given below:

(in rupees per quintal)

Crop	COP	MSP	% of MSP to COP
Bajra	443.96	600.00	135.15
Maize	448.73	620.00	138.17
Jowar	546.37	620.00	113.48